

MENA WILLIAMS

COMPOSER & PIANIST

[HTTPS://WWW.MWILLIAMSCOMPOSITION.COM](https://www.mwilliamscomposition.com)



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About Me

Mena Williams is an Afro-Caribbean American composer and classical pianist from Miami, Florida. Williams is currently in her last year of undergrad pursuing a dual degree in Music Composition and Creative Writing.

Mena is currently composing for concert music; however, for the longest time her main goal as a composer has been to write for movies and t.v shows; due to her immense love of films. Recently, she has decided to expand on her career goals and also hopes to write for video games and dance. Since these are other forms of visual media that she is extremely attached to.

Work Experience

Orlando Music Club 2024

Adjudicator for the OmniHarmoni Young Composers Competition

National Federation of Music Clubs 2024

Adjudicator for the NFMC Florida Junior Composers Contest

Self Employed 2022-Present

Classical Piano Teacher

University of Redlands 2021-Present

- 2023 Student Representative of the College Curriculum Committee
- 2023-Present Peer Writing Tutor
- 2021-Present Library Clerk Specialist Technical Services

Arch Creek Animal Clinic 2020-21

Part-time Veterinary Technician

Volunteer Work

Redlands Community Orchestra 2024

Played Percussion

New World Symphony 2024-Present

Usher

Redlands Symphony Orchestra 2022-24

Usher

Novelly 2022-23

Creative Writing Coach for the Novelly Rising Voices Collective

University of Miami Frost School of Music Young Musicians Camp 2019

Counselor

Education

School

2021-25

University of Redlands
BM Music Composition & BA Creative Writing

Cumulative GPA: 3.671

- 2023-Present: Co Founder of UoR Chapter of Hear Your Song
- 2023- Present: NSLS Member
- 2022- Present: Sigma Alpha Iota Member
- 2021-Present: UoR BSU Member

2022

Miami Dade College
No Degree

Cumulative GPA: 4.0

Received transfer credit for BA in Creative Writing

2021

San Francisco Art Institute
No Degree

Independent study through the University of Redlands. Studied with film director Christopher Coppola

Workshop & Festivals

2024

- Twisted Spruce Music Foundation Guitar & Composition Symposium Competition participant
- Mostly Modern Festival

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Workshop & Festivals

2023

- National Association of Teachers of Singing Inc. Mentoring Program for Composers participant
- Atlantic Music Festival (2nd session)

2022

- NYU MPAP Video Game Scoring Summer Workshop (Auditor)
- Mostly Modern Festival

2021

- Boulanger Initiative Virtual Solo Composition Workshop for Cello
- WildFlower Composers Festival (formerly known as Young Women Composers Camp)
- Novelty Rising Voices Collective (formerly known as SPEAK! Writing Fellowship)
Universiteit Leiden & University of the Arts he Hague (through Coursera)
 - Certificate of completion for the online class The Importance & Power of Music in our Society
- **Duke University** (through Coursera)
 - Certificate of completion for the online class Music Biology: What We Like to Hear and Why

2020

- **NYU Tische Clive Davis Institute of Recorded Music** (through Yellowbrick)
 - Certificate of completion for the online class Music Industry Essentials

2019

- Walden School Young Musicians Camp

2009-18

- University of Miami Frost School of Music Young Musicians Camp

Certifications

2022

- **California Department of Social Services** -- California Child Abuse Mandated Reporter Online Training for Volunteers

Expertise & Skills

Music Composition

- Sibelius
- Music Theory
- Score Editing
- Arranging

Writing

- Creative Writing
- Editing & Proofreading
- Journalism

Music Production

- Logic Pro X
- Pure Data

Public Relations

- Advertising
- Management

Performing Arts

- Classical Piano
- Jazz Piano
- Choir
- Percussion

Collaborative

- Large Ensemble
- Communication
- Time Management
- Organization Skills
- Creative Problem Solving
- Decision-Making

Awards

2024

- Joan Miller Scholarship
- SAI Composer's Award

2023

- SAI Composer's Award

2022

- James Miles Musical Innovation Grant
- Deans List for Spring 22 semester

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Awards

2021

- Kerdyk Family Music Scholarship
- Honorable Mention from NFMC Junior Composers Contest

2020

- 2nd Place recipient for La Plume Writers Contest High School Division
- Lift Music Fund

2019

- 3rd Place recipient for La Plume Writers Contest High School Division
- Honorable Mention from NFMC Junior Composers Contest

Publications

2022 Novelly

- Untold History: Sea of Freedom

Commissions

2024

A Life had at Sea

by Mena Williams

Commissioned by Jehsica Castle
Instrumentation: B-flat Clarinet & Piano

2024

An Abandoned Woman's Lament

by Mena Williams

Commissioned by National Association of Teachers of Singing & Cincinnati Song Initiative
Instrumentation: Soprano voice & Piano

2023

Nostradamus

by Mena Williams

Commissioned by Christopher Figueroa
Instrumentation: Wind Quintet

2023

When the Day has Gone

by Mena Williams

Commissioned by Jehsica Castle & Timothy Ruzon
Instrumentation: B-flat Clarinet & Trombone

2023

A Reoccurring Dream

by Mena Williams

Commissioned by Somerset Peede
Instrumentation: Viola & Piano

2023

Mist Over the River

by Mena Williams

Commissioned by Emily Davis
Instrumentation: Unaccompanied Euphonium

Premieres & Performances

A Life had at Sea

by Mena Williams

To be Premiered March 2025

Jehsica Castle (b-flat clarinet) & Joseph Candelaria (piano) at Castle's BM Music Performance Senior Recital at the University of Redlands

A Boy and His Drum

by Mena Williams

Premiered December 2024

University of Redlands Orchestra & Choir conducted by Co Boi Nguyen at the 77th annual Feast of Lights production at the University of Redlands

An Abandoned Woman's Lament

by Mena Williams

Premiered June 2024

Olivia Knutsen (soprano) & Mary Elizabeth Nerren (piano) hosted by NATS & CSI

Other Performances

Performed September 2024 at the University of Redlands. Sonja Krenek (soprano) & Lara Urrutia (piano)

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Premieres & Performances

He Died in the Fog by Mena Williams

Premiered June 2024

Movement 2 & 3 Premiered by the Atlantic Brass Quintet | Tim Leopold & Miki Sasaki (trumpet), Seth Orgel (f-horn), John Faieta (trombone), & John Manning (tuba) at the 5th season of the Mostly Modern Festival

Other Performances

- Movement 1 Premiered November 2024 by Angel & Ivan Rivas (trumpet), Ryan Vickrey (f-horn), Jase Gooden (trombone), & Vincent Garavito (tuba) at University of Redlands Green Orange Composition Recital
- Movement 1 Performed November 2024 by Angel & Ivan Rivas (trumpet), Ryan Vickrey (f-horn), Jase Gooden (trombone), & Vincent Garavito (tuba) at the Brass Chamber Ensemble Concert

Nostradamus by Mena Williams

Premiered April 2024

Christopher Figueroa (flute), Kayla DeGuzman (oboe), Derrick Williams (b-flat clarinet), Ryan Vickrey (f-horn), & Jonathan Stehney (bassoon) at the University of Redlands Green Orange Composition Recital

Quintet in A minor for Piano & Strings

arranged for 2 Pianos
by Florence B. Price
arr. by Mena Williams

Premiered March 2024

Movement 2 Premiered by Mena Williams & Thandiwe Sukuta (piano) at Williams' BM Music Composition Junior Recital at the University of Redlands

When the Day has Gone by Mena Williams

Premiered November 2023

Jehsica Castle (b-flat clarinet) & Timothy Ruzon (trombone) at the University of Redlands Green Orange Composition Recital

Other Performances

- Performed February 2024 at Castle & Ruzon's joint BM Music Performance Junior Recital at the University of Redlands

A Reoccurring Dream by Mena Williams

Premiered August 2023

Somerset Peede (viola) & Stephan Christie (piano) on Youtube Livestream

Under the Red Sky by Mena Williams

Premiered July 2023

AMF Contemporary Ensemble | Nava Pandayeh (flute), Jaroslave Škuta (bass clarinet), Sean MacCarthy-Grant (bass drum), Alyssa Soriano (piano), Dan Qiao (violin), & Jameson Platte (cello) at the Atlantic Music Festival

Mist Over the River by Mena Williams

Premiered March 2023

Emily Davis (euphonium) at the University of Redlands LGBTQ+ Showcase

Other Performances

- Performed April 2023 at the university of Redlands Green Orange Recital
- Performed April 2023 at Davis' BM Music Education Senior Recital at the University of Redlands

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Premieres & Performances

El Vaquero Misterioso
by Mena Williams

Premiered June 2022

Neave Trio | Anna Williams (violin), Mikhail Veselov (cello), & Eri Nakamura (piano) at the 3rd season of the Mostly Modern Festival

The Rising Tide
by Mena Williams

Premiered April 2022

Sophia "Sol" Huang & Emma Sandbothe (violin), Vincent Francis (viola), Abigail Rodriguez (cello), Fatima Baeza (double bass) at the University of Redlands Green Orange Composition Recital

A Semita in Umbra
by Mena Williams

Premiered November 2021

MSgt. Christine Lightner (cello) at the Boulanger Initiative Virtual Workshop

Little Bird of Song
by Mena Williams

Premiered November 2021

Christian Hillis (flute) at the University of Redlands Green Orange Composition Recital

Other Performances

- Performed March 2023 by Christopher Figueroa at the University of Redlands LGBTQ+ Showcase

Echoing off the Ricochet
by Mena Williams

Premiered August 2021

AndPlay Duo | Maya Bennardo (violin) & Hannah Levinson (viola) at the WildFlower Composers Festival (formerly known as the Young Women's Composers Camp)

Insignificant Flaw
by Mena Williams

Premiered July 2019

Walden School Players | Lara Cocks (flute), Katherine Schoepflin Jimoh (b-flat clarinet), Dand Jessen (bassoon), & Bonnie Whiting (percussion) at the Walden School Young Musicians Camp Festival Composers Forum I

Enlightenment of the Cruel
by Mena Williams

Premiered July 2019

International Contemporary Ensemble | Isabel Lapanto Gleicher (bass flute) & Dennis Sullivan (book (pages w/ a mic) & spoken words) at the Walden School Young Musicians Camp Composer Forum IV

Tale of the Gypsy
by Mena Williams

Premiered July 2018

Chris Renaud & Alyssa Benedict (piano), & Yuri Harper Rosenberg (viola) at the University of Miami Frost School of Music Young Musicians Camp Advanced Honors Composition Concert

Other Performances

- Performed July 2019 by Michael Kropf & Marco Roberts (piano), & Luke Schroeder (viola) at the Walden School Young Musicians Camp Composers Forum I